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1969/01/23

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

JAN 23 1969

National Security Study Memorandum

TO: The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Secretary of the Treasury
The Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Review of the International Situation

The President has directed the preparation of an "inventory" of the international situation as of January 20, 1969. He wishes the review to provide a current assessment of the political, economic and security situation and the major problems relevant to U.S. security interests and U.S. bilateral and multilateral relations. In order to put this review into effect he wishes to consider responses to the attached set of questions along with other material considered relevant. The review should include a discussion, where appropriate, of the data upon which judgments are based, uncertainties regarding the data, and alternative possible interpretations of the data.

The responses should be forwarded to the President by February 20, 1969.

Attachment



Partially Declassified/Released on 10/4/72
under provisions of E.O. 13526
by J. Saunders, National Security Council

UNCLASSIFIED
EXCERPT

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REPUBLIC OF CHINA

1. How stable is the present Chiang Government? Are there any prospects for its overthrow? What is its present military strength?

2. What is the state of the GRC economy and what are its prospects for growth? How much does the high level of military expenditures affect GRC economic prospects? What is the likelihood of Chiang agreeing to a reduction in his armed forces in exchange for their modernization?

3. What are Chiang's intentions towards the mainland? Does he really intend to "return to the mainland"? Under what circumstances would he launch an attack? Will the current GRC ever accept a two-China policy, de jure or de facto?

4. Will the policies and attitudes of the Chinese Government change radically after Chiang's death? Besides CCK, who are the most important future leaders? Will they share Chiang's dedication to "return to the mainland"?

5. Is the GRC likely to develop relations with the USSR? Are we confident of our knowledge in regard to possible GRC overtures to the Soviet Union?

6. What is the strength of the Taiwan independence movement? What is the state of relations between the Taiwanese and Mainlanders? Have these relations improved? How do youths in both groups look to the future?

7. In what circumstances might the GRC agree to withdraw from the offshore islands?

8. Would the GRC agree to have the U.S. develop additional bases or to relocate bases from other areas? How would such use of Taiwan be regarded by Peking? What would Peking do about it?

9. What are the prospects for greater acceptance of the GRC into the Asian community?

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COMMUNIST CHINA

1. What is the present state of the Chinese Communist political apparatus and control following the cultural revolution? How strong is Peking's control over the regions? Is there any significant opposition to Mao and is a major move against Mao a possibility?

2. After Mao's death, what are the leadership prospects and who will control China? What are the prospects for a major change in Chinese policy after Mao's death?

3. What effect did the cultural revolution have on the Chinese economy and what are its current prospects? Is China facing a major food problem and what is it doing about agricultural and population control? What are its foreign exchange resources?

4. What is the current strength and deployment of the Chinese Communist armed forces? Is it modernizing its conventional forces? How strong is its air defense?

5. What is the status of the Chinese Communists' nuclear weapons program? What are the major problems and weaknesses? When will the Chinese Communists be in a position to deploy nuclear armed ballistic missiles? What will be Chinese Communist's nuclear strategy once it has a force in being? Will the Chinese Communists be willing to enter into international arrangements to control nuclear weapons? and under what conditions?

6. What is the current state and prospects for Sino-Soviet relations? Is a rapprochement possible and under what circumstances?

7. What are Chinese Communist attitudes towards the United States? Will they try to make a deal with the United States at the expense of the Soviet Union? Are they really interested in peaceful co-existence with the U. S. and what would be Peking's conditions?

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COMMUNIST CHINA: 2

8. What is the nature of the Chinese Communist threat to Asia? Is Peking likely to engage in conventional and/or nuclear attacks against its neighbors? What are the principal deterrents to such attacks? How much support is Communist China giving to subversive and insurgency movements in the region? How much support is it likely to give in the future? What role is China playing in Laos and Thailand?

9. What is the nature of the Chinese Communists relations with Hanoi and the NLF? Will the Chinese Communists seek to participate in any large Viet-Nam negotiations?

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